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New York legislators and Gov. Andrew Cuomo continue to be at odds over the language of a mobile sports betting amendment, shelving the measure for the upcoming fiscal year.

MGM's Yonkers Dreams Of Online Betting Is Shelved In New York Budget

By BRIAN HARROD

Yonkers Assemblyman and Gambling Committee Chairman J Gary Pretlow hopes for a "hail mary" that would include sports betting in Gov. Andrew Cuomo's final budget but understands that it may be 2021 or beyond before the topic comes up again for negotiation.

Before the two parties failed to reach an agreement, Gov. Cuomo and the New York Legislature were urged to find a path to mobile betting by a local city council on the behalf of two casinos.

MGM's Empire City in Yonkers and Resorts World in Queens are two downstate casinos that could potentially benefit from a sports betting bill. The Yonkers City Council passed a resolution in the days leading up to Gov. Cuomo's decision hoping to influence the two sides to find a middle ground.

The council's resolution stated that legalizing mobile betting could create an annual tax revenue base of roughly \$90 million and create thou-

sands of jobs for the surrounding areas near the casinos.

Yonkers City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen expressed a commonly heard frustration around the New York legislature about the money leaving the state for neighboring New Jersey and their flourishing betting market.

"We're asking that people can come to the MGM Casino and place a bet on sports rather than driving over the bridge and spending that money in New Jersey," Councilman Mike Breen said

All casinos in New York are currently closed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

With the state facing a \$6 billion dollar budget deficit plus the additional financial strain of dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, New York lawmakers were hoping that Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his administration would lessen their objections over sports betting.

New York online sports betting suffered, in part, due to an accelerated legislative schedule. Normally, both the Assembly and Senate in the state would have a proposal ready for the middle of March, but due to the coronavirus outbreak, both legislative bodies were forced to narrow their budget requests.

Instead of proposals, the two chambers began negotiations directly with the governor's office but with continued opposition in the Assem-

bly and Gov. Andrew Cuomo's reservations, the hopes for mobile sports betting fell short.

With the coronavirus hitting New York City particularly hard, the legislature's attention is understandably on building and supporting response teams until the cases peak and first responders and the healthcare system begin to recover.

FAQ

How many casinos are in the state of New York?

There are 25 casinos in the state of New York.

How many casinos offer sports betting in New York?

There are four upstate casinos in New York that offer on-site sports betting.

Are there casinos in New York City?

No, currently there are no casinos in New York City.

